

Somalia Famine: Dadaab Refugee Camp In Kenya at More Than Four Times Capacity



Faduma Sakow Abdullahi and her five children tried to escape starvation in Somalia by journeying to a Kenyan refugee camp. Only one day before they reached their destination, her four-year-old daughter and five-year-old son died of exhaustion and hunger.

She saw more than 20 other children dead or unconscious abandoned on the roadside. Eventually a passing car rescued the rest of her family from what could have been death.

‘I never thought I would live to see this horror,’ she said, tears rolling down her cheeks as she described the 37-day trek to Dadaab, the world’s largest refugee camp.

Presently about 1,300 people arrive at Dadaab from Somalia each day in search of food, water, medical help and shelter. There are now more

than 42,000 of the newly arrived refugees waiting outside the camp boundaries because there is nowhere to fit them inside. Dadaab was originally built for 90,000 people but more than 382,000 are now here.

Tens of thousands of Somalis have watched their land dry up after years without rain. Then their livestock died. Finally all the food ran out. Now they are making the perilous journey over parched earth to refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia, regions that also have been hit hard by drought.

The World Food Program estimates that at least 8.8 million people in Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda have been affected by the drought and will need food aid.